

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4409

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ROME 5495

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT, YO

SUBJECT: TRIESTE DISPUTE

REF: STATE 79385 (NOTAL)

1. CHARGE D'AFFAIRES WAS CALLED IN TODAY APRIL 19 BY FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL GAJA TO BE INFORMED OF INSTRUCTIONS ALREADY SENT TO ORTONA TO REACT "AT HIGHEST LEVEL" TO USG SUGGESTION AND ITS IMPLICATIONS, IN ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY VIEW, IN SISCO-ORTONA EXCHANGE OF APRIL 17 ON TRIESTE QUESTION. HE OBSERVED THAT THE SECRETARY HAD ALSO SEEN MINIC. THE CHARGE NOTED THAT A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY HAD BEEN CONTEMPLATED, HAD MORO GONE TO NEW YORK, WHICH GAJA OF COURSE ACKNOWLEDGED. BEFORE TURNING TO THE DETAILS OF HIS PRESENTATION, GAJA ALSO NOTED THE STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO SENATOR KENNEDY FROM BELGRADE.

2. GAJA SAID USG POSITION COMMUNICATED TO ORTONA IS THAT ITALIANS SHOULD MAINTAIN CALM AND REFRAIN FROM PRESSING CLAIM ON ZONE B. GAJA SAID THE DOCUMENTS ON CURRENT CONTROVERSY ARE PUBLIC AND FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD WELCOME STUDY OF THE DOCUMENTS TO DEMONSTRATE IN WHAT WAY ITALIANS HAVE ASSERTED CLAIM TO ZONE B. GAJA SAID YUGOSLAV EFFORT TO RELATE ENTIRE YUGOSLAV SHOW TO SUPPOSED ITALIAN SECRET

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CLAIM ON YUGOSLAV TERRITORY HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN SUCCESSFUL. THE

RECORD NONETHELESS DEMONSTRATES, SAID GAJA, THAT THE ITALIANS ARE FAITHFUL TO THE TREATY AND THE LONDON MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.

3. TITO'S SPEECH, ON THE OTHER HAND, AMOUNTS TO A UNILATERAL DENUNCIATION OF THE LONDON MEMORANDUM. DESPITE THIS, ITALIAN ATTENTION IS NOW INVITED TO AN APPARENT WILLINGNESS ON TITO'S PART TO TALK, AND THE GOI IS URGED TO CONSIDER TITO'S MOVE AND EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES OF BILATERAL TALKS. GAJA SAID "TITO WIPES OUT THE LONDON MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH ONE STROKE AND YOU TELL US TO ACCEPT IT AND NEGOTIATE". GAJA SAID HE FOUND THIS ACCEPTANCE OF THE YUGOSLAV POINT OF VIEW PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE

ON THE PART OF AN ALLY.

4. GAJA SAID ORTONA HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SET FORTH THE ITALIAN POSITION AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF THE DEPARTMENT. GAJA THEN PROCEEDED TO PROVIDE CHRONOLOGY ON TRIESTE DISPUTE AS ITALIANS SEE IT. GAJA SAID DETAILS HAD NOT BEEN SHARED PREVIOUSLY WITH INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY BECAUSE OF PRESUMED SENSITIVITY OF MATTER

IN THE EYES OF THE ITALIAN PUBLIC. TO FOREIGN MINISTRY'S SURPRISE, HOWEVER, MATTER HAS NOT TURNED OUT IN RECENT DAYS TO HAVE THE SENSITIVITY FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD EXPECTED. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION GAJA SAID HE HAS NO PLANS AT PRESENT, HOWEVER, TO FILL IN THE BRITISH (AS SIGNERS OF THE LONDON MEMORANDUM), AND HE WAS ONLY RAISING IT WITH US AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF THE ORTONA-SISCO

CONVERSATION OF APRIL 17.

5. GENESIS OF PROBLEM IN ITALIAN VIEW IS WITHDRAWAL OF YUGOSLAVS IN 1962 FROM JOINT BOUNDARY COMMISSION ESTABLISHED BY THE 1947 PEACE TREATY. (THIS SECTION OF THE BORDER, NORTH OF THE TRIESTE AREA, INCLUDES THE SMALL POCKETS OF LAND INCORRECTLY OCCUPIED BY THE YUGOSLAV SIDE.) DURING 1964 AND 1965 THE ITALIANS MADE AN EFFORT TO PERSUADE THE YUGOSLAVS TO RETURN TO THE JOINT BOUNDARY COMMISSION. THE YUGOSLAVS COUNTERED WITH THE REQUEST THAT RECOGNITION OF YUGOSLAV SOVEREIGNTY IN ZONE B MUST BE LINKED WITH FURTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE PEACE TREATY BOUNDARY COMMISSION. TO THIS THE ITALIANS PROPOSED THAT A GLOBAL SOLUTION OF BORDER PROBLEMS BE NEGOTIATED INCLUDING

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THE POCKETS INCORRECTLY OCCUPIED ON EACH SIDE OF THE BORDER, NATIONALIZATIONS WITHOUT COMPENSATION OF ITALIAN PROPERTY IN ZONE B, TERRITORIAL LIMITS IN THE GULF OF TRIESTE (TO FACILITATE THE ENTRY OF LARGE SHIPS IN TRIESTE HARBOR WITHOUT TRANSITING, PERFORCE, YUGOSLAV TERRITORIAL WATERS), QUESTIONS OF TREATMENT OF MINORITIES, ETC., MOST IF NOT ALL RAISED OR IMPLIED IN THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND ITS ANNEXES. THE YUGOSLAVS REFUSE TO EXPAND THE DISCUSSIONS BEYOND INCLUDING THE SOVEREIGNTY OF ZONE B, AS THEY HAD PROPOSED.

6. AFTER 1968 AND THE JARRING EFFECT ON THE YUGOSLAVS OF THE INVASION
OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE BREZHNEV DOCTRINE, THE ITALIANS AGAIN
PROPOSED A GLOBAL SOLUTION OF BORDER PROBLEMS INCLUDING 18 NEGOTIABLE
POINTS AT ISSUE. THIS TIME THE YUGOSLAVS AGREED. THEN BEGAN A
PROCESS OF WHITTILING DOWN THE 18 POINTS TO ELIMINATE SUCH THINGS
AS A 10 FOOT SHIFT OF THE BORDER IN GORIZIA TO REMOVE THE BORDER
FROM GORIZIA RR STATION. EVEN THE SMALLEST BORDER RECTIFICATIONS
WOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED BY THE YUGOSLAVS AND HAD TO BE REMOVED FROM
THE CONTEMPLATED AGE
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